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WILLIAM WIRT CALKINS, AMATEUR MYCOLOGIST

BRUCE FINK

(WITH PLATE 154)

Mr. William Wirt Calkins was born May 29, 1842, and died July 9, 1914. Illinois was his native state and remained his residence throughout his life. He prepared for Yale, and began teaching as a ward principal in Ottawa, Illinois, in 1862. However, he soon resigned, enlisted, and served in the Civil War until its close. At the close of the war, he entered business life and studied law. His life was devoted mainly to law and to literary work.

Mr. Calkins was a lover of the natural sciences from boyhood. His earliest interest was in the study of rocks and fossils, but, unfortunately, his large collection was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871. After this, he studied conchology, and a number of papers on this subject appeared. About the same time, he began the study of seed-plants, and his collection of about 4000 species is now in the herbarium of the University of Notre Dame. He began the study of fungi about 1885, and papers on lichens and other fungi began to appear at once. Though he collected and distributed large numbers of fungi of various kinds collected in the South and mainly in Florida, it is apparent both from his publications and from conversations and correspondence with him that he soon gave up all other fungi for the lichens, which remained his main botanical interest until the time of his death.

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His collection of mosses and lichens still remains in the possession of Mrs. Calkins. This collection contains 25 or 30 new species of lichens collected by Mr. Calkins and named mostly by William Nylander. Many of his other fungi were distributed by Ellis and Everhart.

Mr. Calkins was an amateur scientist, who was possessed of a genuine love of nature. Conditions of life prevented his entering the ranks of professional naturalists, but he never lost his relish for the study of natural science. He will be remembered by botanists as a keen-eyed collector of plants, who has by his field work materially added to our knowledge of various kinds of fungi. Some of his specimens will always remain in various American herbaria.

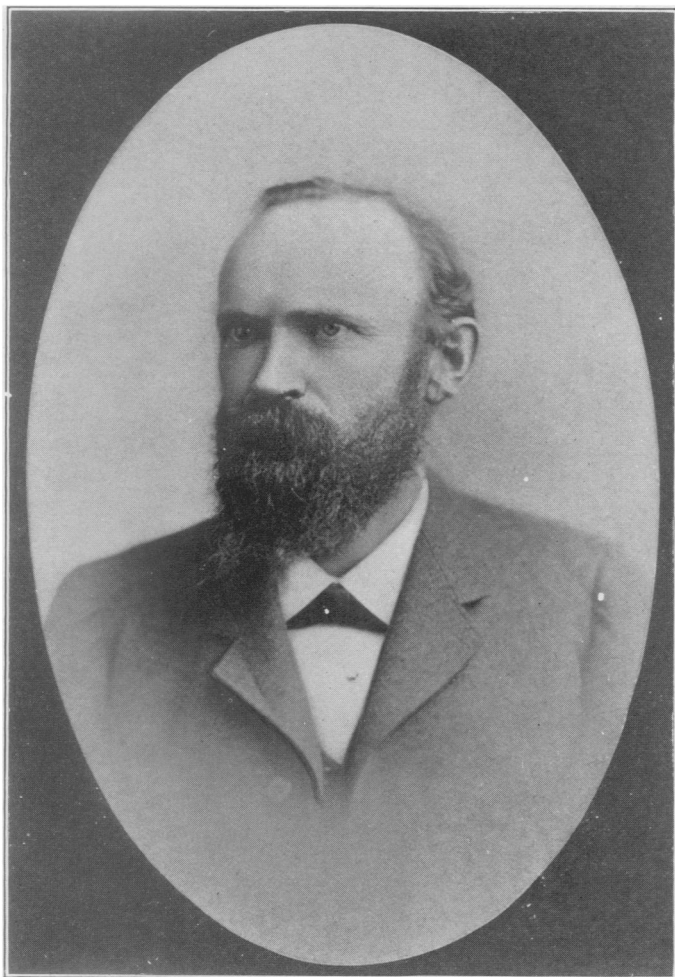
It will be of interest to botanists to know that Mr. Calkins was a prolific writer from early manhood. His first papers, in 1860, were on geology, and the whole number of papers and books to the time of his death was about 150. These writings covered titles on geology, conchology and other zoological subjects, war correspondence, various historical papers, and other miscellaneous topics. His history of the 104th Illinois regiment is a work of 518 pages, and there are one or two smaller historical books. His largest scientific paper seems to have been "The Lichen Flora of Cook County, Illinois"—a work of 50 pages with brief diagnoses of 125 lichens. There is added below a nearly complete bibliography of his botanical papers. Two papers on "The Flora about Berwyn, Illinois" published in "The Berwyn Current," in 1907, eight or nine botanical papers in "the Ottawa (Ill.) Republican," from 1880 to 1892, and three papers in the first volume of "The Valley Naturalist," some of which contain botanical material, have not been seen and therefore are not listed. The available titles are as follows:

1. **Calkins, W. W.** Rambles of a Naturalist in Southern Florida. Cinn. Quart. Journ. Sci. 2: 161-164. 1875. Mainly on the fauna with a few notes on seed-plants and marine algae. Another paper under a different title was published in the same volume, but is devoted wholly to the fauna.
2. **Calkins, W. W.** Notes on the winter Flora of Florida. Bot. Gaz. 2: 128-129. 1877.
3. **Calkins, W. W.** Tillandsias under cultivation. Bot. Gaz. 4: 209-210. 1879.

4. Calkins, W. W. January flora of the Indian River country, Florida. Bot. Gaz. 4: 242. 1879.
5. Calkins, W. W. Winter herborizations on Indian River, Florida. Bot. Gaz. 5: 57-58. 1880.
6. Calkins, W. W. Botanical observations in Florida. Valley Naturalist 2: 20-21 and 35-36. 1880. Notes on a considerable number of seed-plants.
7. Calkins, W. W. *Epidendrum cochleatum* L. Bot. Gaz. 7: 144. 1882.
8. Calkins, W. W. The W. W. Calkins collection of Florida woods. 1-10. Chicago, 1883.
9. Calkins, W. W. Notes on some little known Florida trees. Am. Journ. Forestry 1: 386-389. 1883.
10. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida lichens. Bot. Gaz. 10: 369-370. 1885. A note stating that he found 80 species.
11. Calkins, W. W. Catalogue of lichens collected in Florida in 1885, with notes. Journ. Mycol. 2: 112-114. 1886. A list of 73 species determined by Henry Willey.
12. Calkins, W. W. *Polyporus officinalis*. Journ. Mycol. 2: 107. 1886.
13. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 1. Journ. Mycol. 2: 6-7. 1886.
14. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 2. Journ. Mycol. 2: 23. 1886. This paper and number one of the series deals with higher basidiomycetes mainly.
15. Calkins, W. W. The leaf fungi of Florida.—No. 3. Journ. Mycol. 2: 42. 1886.
16. Calkins, W. W. Cryptogamic botany of a Florida log.—Paper 4. Journ. Mycol. 2: 53-54. 1886. Notes on 15 lichens and other fungi found on a giant log in a hummock.
17. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 5. Journ. Mycol. 2: 70. 1886. Notes on a few higher basidiomycetes.
18. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 6. Journ. Mycol. 2: 80-81. 1886. Remarks on the small number of basidiomycetes found in pine woods.
19. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 7. Journ. Mycol. 2: 89-91. 1886. A list of 35 polypores collected near Jacksonville and named by J. B. Ellis.
20. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 8. Journ. Mycol. 2: 104-106. 1886. A continuation of the last, giving numbers 36 to 78 of the higher basidiomycetes collected near Jacksonville and determined by Mr. Ellis.
21. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 9. Journ. Mycol. 2: 126-128. 1886. A continuation of the Florida fungi, listing numbers 79 to 136,—basidiomycetes and ascomycetes.
22. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 10. Journ. Mycol. 3: 7. 1887. A list of various fungi, continuing the list to number 163.
23. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 11. Journ. Mycol. 3: 33-34. 1887. A continuation of the list of fungi to number 183. This paper includes only polypores.

24. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 12. Journ. Mycol. 3: 46. 1887. Numbers 184 to 216, mostly higher basidiomycetes with a few ascomycetes.
25. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 13. Journ. Mycol. 3: 58-59. 1887. Numbers 217 to 250, various fungi.
26. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 14. Journ. Mycol. 3: 70. 1887. Numbers 251 to 280, various fungi.
27. Calkins, W. W. Notes on Florida fungi.—No. 15. Journ. Mycol. 3: 82. 1887. Numbers 281 to 300, various fungi.
28. Calkins, W. W. Notes on new Florida lichens. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 16: 330. 1889. A list of six species named by Dr. W. Nylander.
29. Calkins, W. W. Notes on rare East Tennessee lichens. Am. Nat. 24: 1078-1079. 1890. Thirty-three species listed with notes.
30. Calkins, W. W. An edible lichen not heretofore noted as such. Bot. Gaz. 17: 418. 1892. Discusses *Endocarpon minutum* (L.).
31. Calkins, W. W. Remarks on North American lichenology,—preliminary. Science 20: 120. 1892.
32. Calkins, W. W. Remarks on American lichenology.—II. Science 20: 205-206. 1892.
33. Calkins, W. W. Remarks on American lichenology.—III. Science 21: 77-78. 1893. Notes on some 20 lichens collected near Jacksonville, Florida.
34. Calkins, W. W. The lichen flora of Chicago and vicinity. Chicago Acad. Sci. 1: 1-50. 1896. Contains short diagnoses of 125 lichens. *Verrucaria prosperella* is described as new.
35. Calkins, W. W. Mosses of Cook County, Illinois. Bryologist 13: 107-111. 1910. A list of 51 species with notes on habitat and locality.
36. Eckfeldt, J. W. and Calkins, W. W. The lichen flora of Florida. Journ. Mycol. 3: 121-126 and 133-137. 1887. A list of 330 lichens with notes. Nine species were listed as new, *nomina nuda*. These have been described since.
37. Huett, J. W. Natural history of La Salle County, Illinois. Part 2. Geology and Zoology. 1-174. pl. 1-3. Ottawa, Illinois, Fair Dealer Print, 1898. Pages 120 to 149 contain "The Lichen-flora of La Salle County" by Calkins. There are short descriptions of 131 lichens.
38. Jordan, D. S. The fur seal and Fur-Seal Islands. Part 3. I-XI. 1-629. pl. 1-94. Many figures partly unnumbered. Washington, D. C., Government printing office, 1899. On page 583 is a list of nine lichens determined by Calkins.

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